

MARVEL

#9



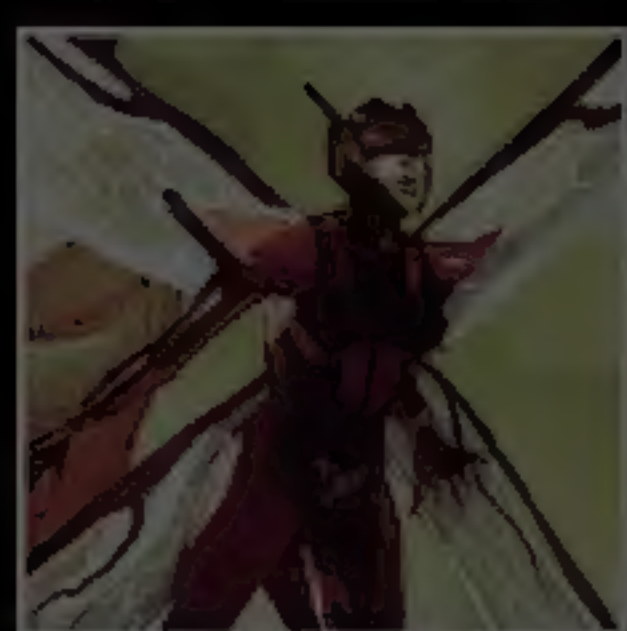
AVENGERS®

MARK WAID · MIKE DEL MUNDO

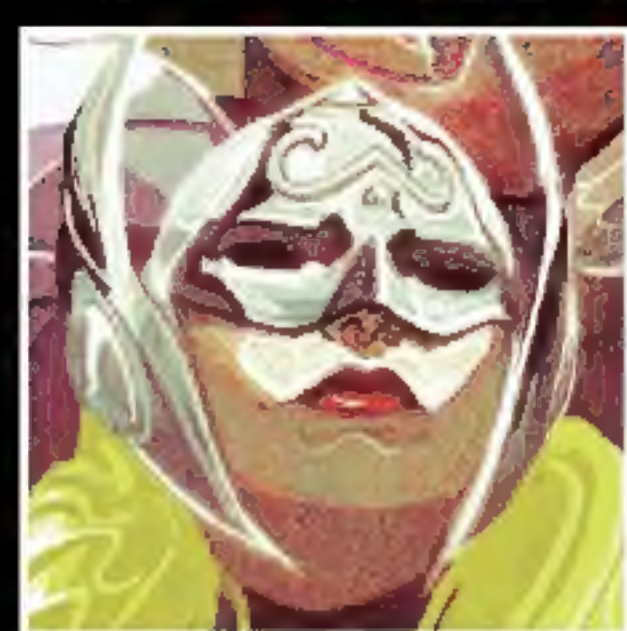
WHERE
IS
THOR?

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS



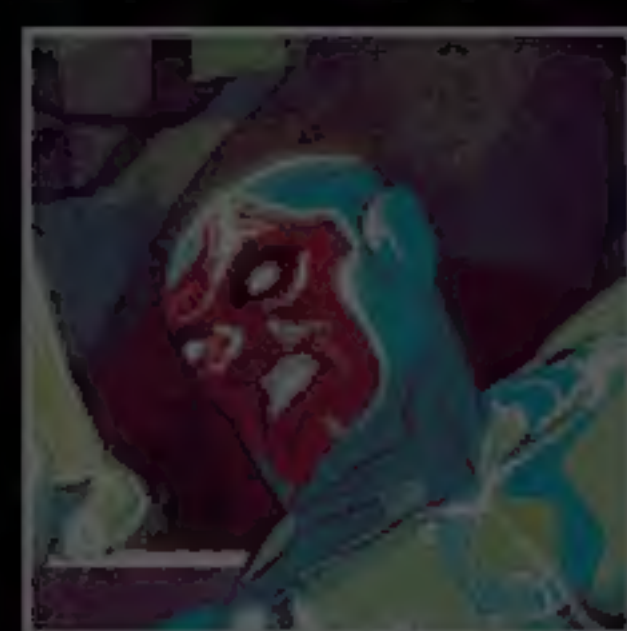
WASP
Nadia Pym



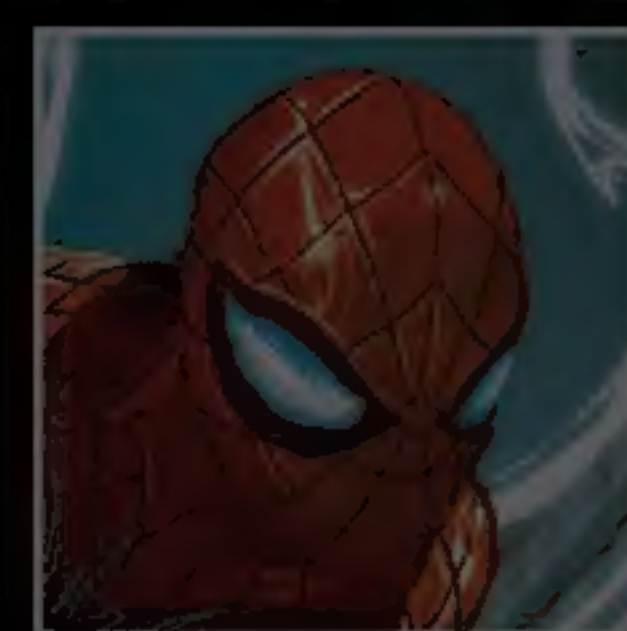
THOR
Jane Foster



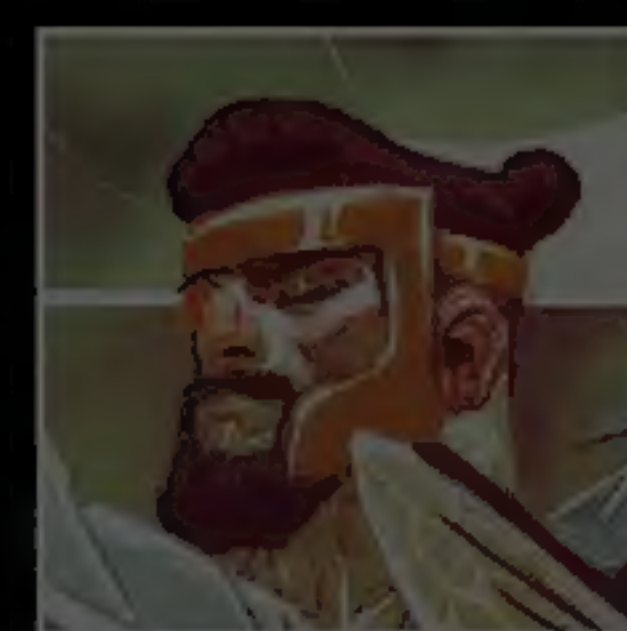
CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION



SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker



HERCULES

Steve Rogers, A.K.A. Captain America, was secretly transformed into a Hydra agent by a sentient Cosmic Cube. After months of scheming and manipulation, he staged a surprise attack during a moment of crisis as a play to take over the United States. The world's heroes arrived to stop him, but Captain America banished Thor to realms unknown and wielded her hammer to quell any resistance.

The country has fallen to Captain America...but where is Thor?

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The Avengers created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby



THAT THE ONLY
NUTRITIOUS FOOD
LEFT ON OUR WORLD
GROWS EXCLUSIVELY
BENEATH THE *MUCKPITS*
SHOWS HOW FAR
WE'VE FALLEN.

STILL, WE MUST EAT.
OUR CHILDREN AND
THEIR CHILDREN MUST
NOT GO HUNGRY, EITHER.

I TRY NOT TO DWELL ON IT.
EVERY MOMENT HAS BECOME A
ROUTINE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL.
THIS WAS JUST ANOTHER
SUNCYCLE OF THE SAME.



THEN SOMETHING...
APPEARED IN THE
FURTHERMOST FIELD-
QUADRANT.



MANY OF US WERE ALARMED
ENOUGH TO ABANDON
OUR FARM-STATIONS.

QUESTIONS WERE
BARKED, BUT SO
FEW OF US STILL
HAVE OPERATIONAL
TRANSLATION IMPLANTS.



MINE WORKS IF
I *JOSTLE* IT.

WHO...
...WHO
ARE
YOU?



I'M A
GOD.



I...HAD MY DOUBTS.

NONETHELESS, WE COULDN'T SIMPLY LET THIS ALIEN STRUGGLE ALONE IN THE VISCIOUS FIELDS...



...NOT AFTER SHE VOCALIZED SUCH A SENSE OF URGENCY.

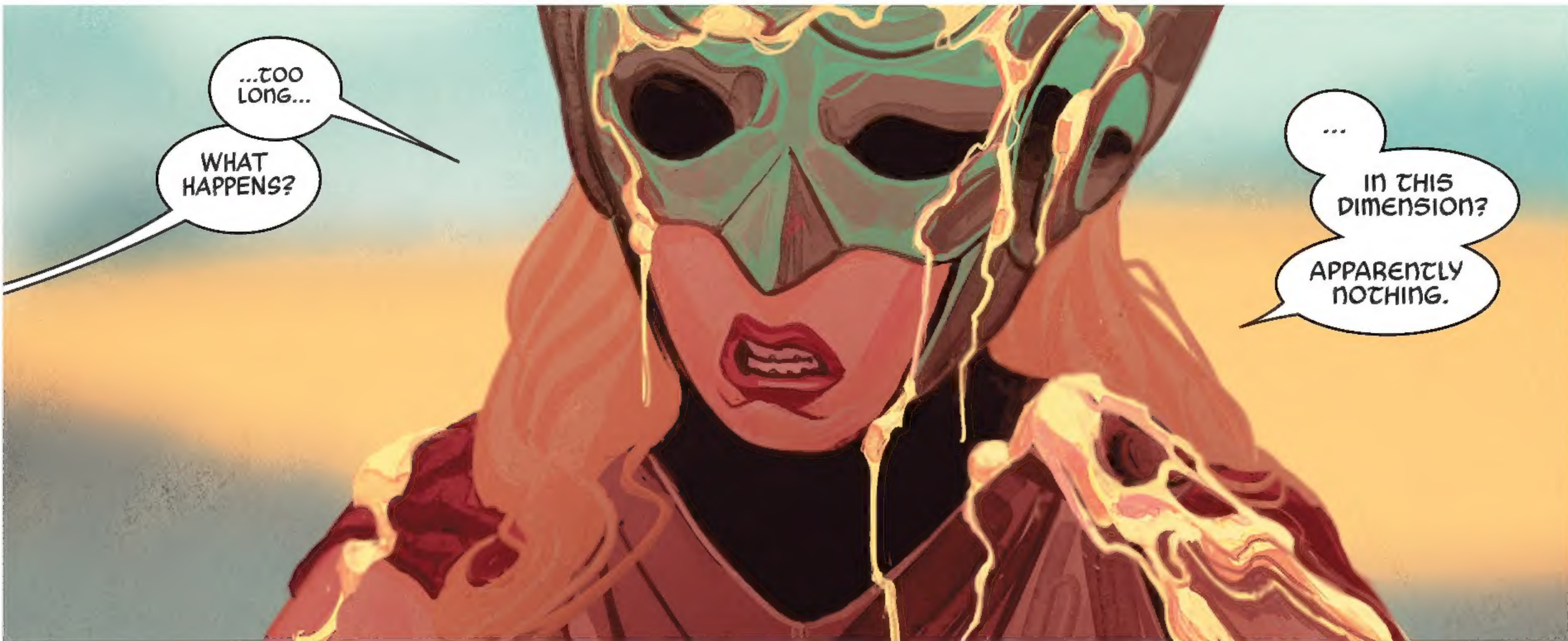
HURRY! PLEASE! I HAVEN'T GOT MY HAMMER!



HAMMER? A TOOL? A WEAPON? IS THAT A THREAT?

NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WITHOUT IT, I'LL DIE HERE! IF I'M...

...I'M APART FROM IT FOR TOO...



...TOO LONG...

WHAT HAPPENS?

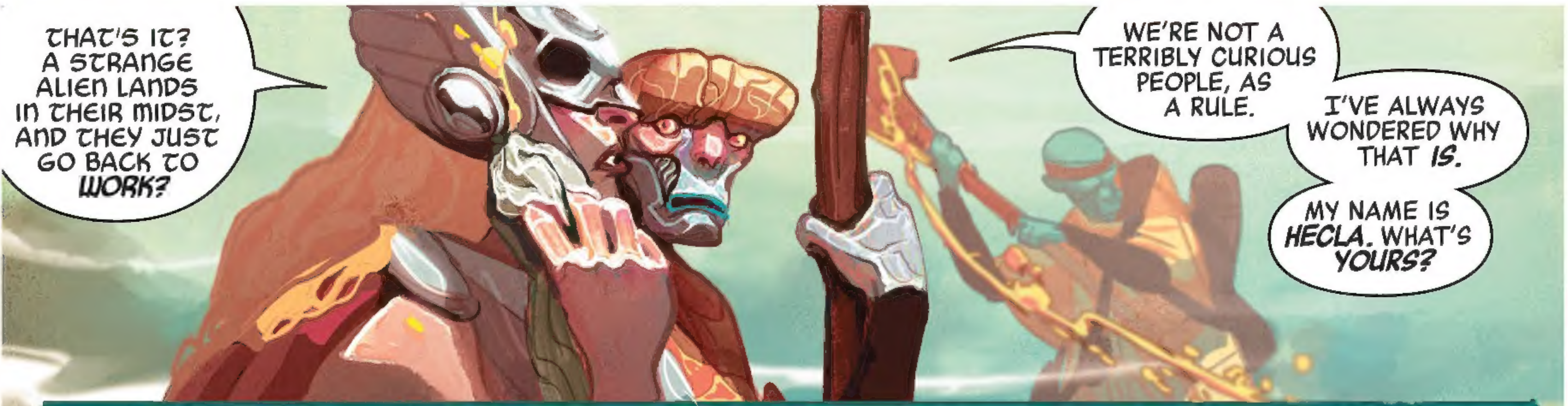
...
IN THIS DIMENSION?
APPARENTLY NOTHING.



BACK TO *FARMING*,
HECLA! REMEMBER WHAT
THE *SAGES* SAY!

"NEVER LET
YOUR LARDER
GROW LIGHT!"

I'LL
GET BY,
LACHE.



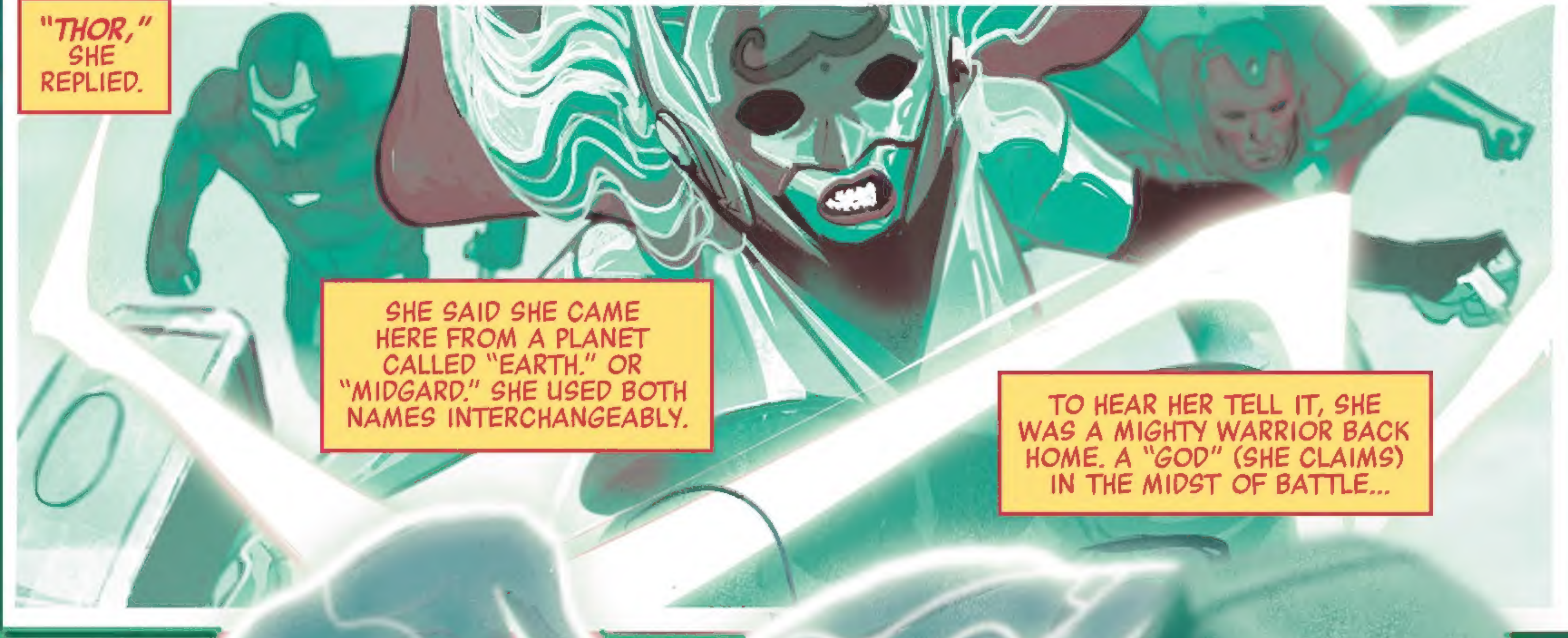
THAT'S IT?
A STRANGE
ALIEN LANDS
IN THEIR MIDST,
AND THEY JUST
GO BACK TO
WORK?

WE'RE NOT A
TERRIBLY CURIOUS
PEOPLE, AS
A RULE.

I'VE ALWAYS
WONDERED WHY
THAT *IS*.

MY NAME IS
HECLA. WHAT'S
YOURS?

"*THOR*,"
SHE
REPLIED.



SHE SAID SHE CAME
HERE FROM A PLANET
CALLED "EARTH." OR
"MIDGARD." SHE USED BOTH
NAMES INTERCHANGEABLY.

TO HEAR HER TELL IT, SHE
WAS A MIGHTY WARRIOR BACK
HOME. A "GOD" (SHE CLAIMS)
IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE...



...WHEN A MYSTERIOUS FORCE
SWEPT HER AWAY AND TO OUR
WORLD. OR "DIMENSION." SHE
ALSO USED THOSE TERMS
INTERCHANGEABLY.

IT WAS CONFUSING
TO ME, BUT ONE
THING WAS EVIDENT:



DESPITE THE HELMET, THIS WOMAN HAD HIT HER **HEAD** UNUSUALLY HARD.

POOR, DELUSIONAL THING.



MY FRIENDS NEED ME. I **HAVE** TO GET HOME.

SOMEHOW.

CAN YOU HELP ME?



SURE. WHY NOT.

ARE YOU TIRED? HUNGRY?

I COULD EAT.



THERE'S A **LEGEND**, STRANGER. ABOUT AN **ARTIFACT** OR **DEVICE** OR SOME SUCH THAT MIGHT PROVIDE YOU TRANSIT.

UHHH.



IT'S A GREAT DISTANCE AWAY, THOUGH, AND THE PATH IS **TREACHEROUS**.

GO ON. PARTAKE.

VOLSTAGG WOULD EAT IT. **VOLSTAGG** WOULD EAT IT. **VOLSTAGG** WOULD EAT--



HGGHHH!

THANK... YOU...



SHE WAS KEEN FOR
AN ADVENTURE.
GOOD.



SO FEW OF US CAN
AFFORD THE *TIME* NOW.



YAWN
I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
SLEPT. MY
FRIENDS--

--NEED YOU
RESTED AND IN
FIGHTING SHAPE,
PRESUMABLY.
I'VE
PACKED YOU A
BAG WITH RATIONS.
ARE YOU READY
TO GO?



HOW
FAR?

COUNT
THE *RATIONS*,
FOR DEITY'S
SAKE.
HERE. I
MADE SOMETHING
TO HELP EASE
YOUR MIND.



...
THANK
YOU.



THIS WAY.



DON'T DWELL ON THE DISTANCE TO BE CONQUERED, BUT ON THE DISTANCE ALREADY WON.
MY WIFE USED TO SAY THAT.



"USED TO."
MAY I OFFER SYMPATHIES?

FOR MY BOY, AS WELL? YOU MAY.



WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY DEFIED OUR NEW RULER WHEN HE CAME AROUND, AS HE DOES, SEEKING TRIBUTE.

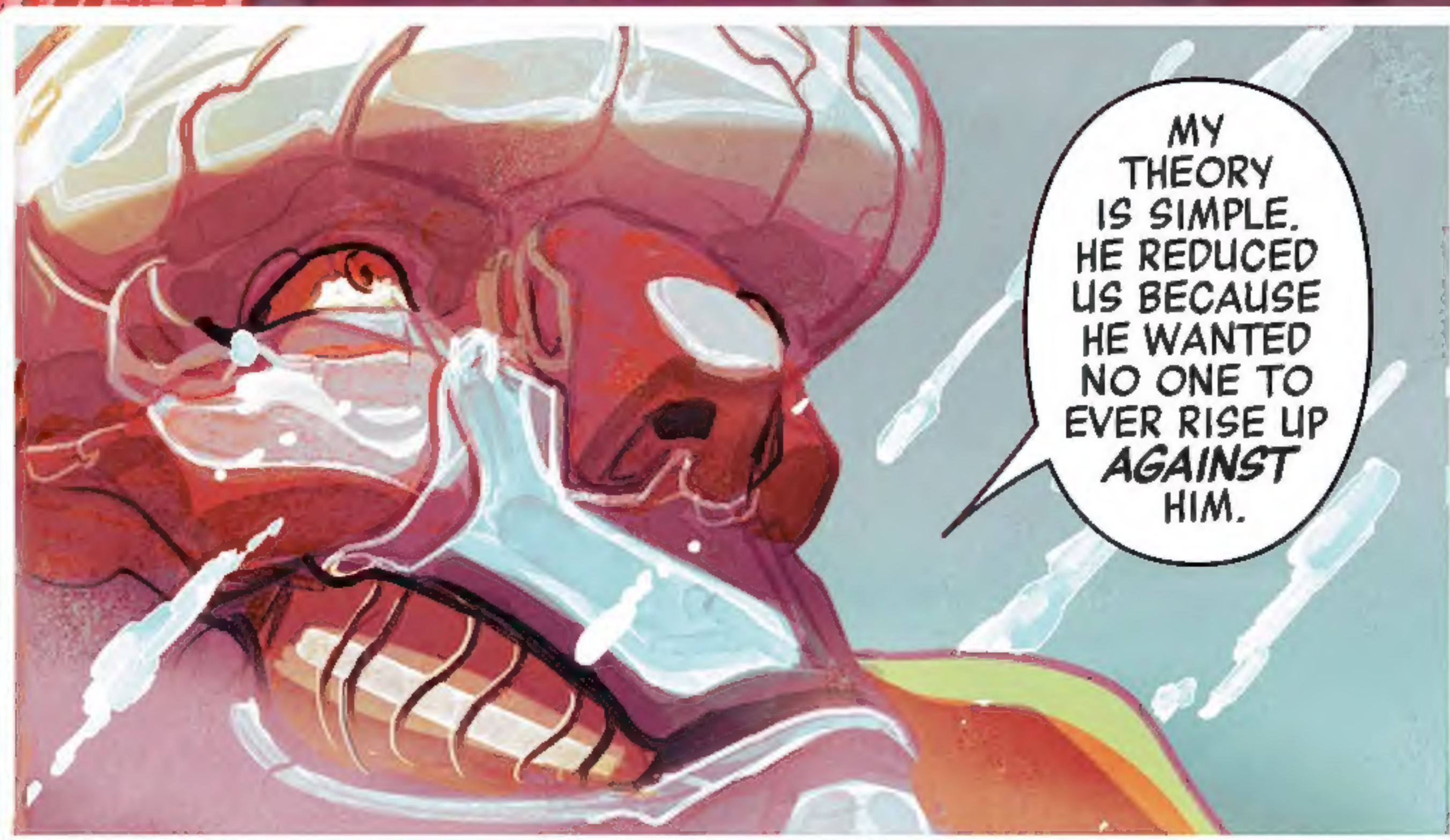
WE
USED TO HAVE
CLEAR RED
SKIES.

WE USED TO
SMELT ORE, CLEAVE
WOOD. WE USED TO BE
A *CIVILIZATION*.

THEN YOD
ARRIVED.

"HE HAD ONLY
ONE DEMAND:
FEALTY."

"HE TOOK FROM US
OUR INDUSTRY AND
OUR RESOURCES, TO
NO APPARENT END. HE
LEFT US WITH ONLY
ENOUGH TO DERIVE
SUSTENANCE."



MY
THEORY
IS SIMPLE.
HE REDUCED
US BECAUSE
HE WANTED
NO ONE TO
EVER RISE UP
AGAINST
HIM.



PEOPLE SAY THAT
THE SKIES ARE DARK
BECAUSE HE WATCHES
US THROUGH THE
LIGHTNING.

PEOPLE
SAY A LOT OF
THINGS.

AS IT HAPPENED,
THOR MADE A FINE
COMPANION.

IT TOOK
HER A BIT
TO RELAX.



ONCE SHE
DID, SHE
TOLD STORIES
OF RAINBOW
BRIDGES AND
FOSSIL FUEL
AND FROST
GIANTS AND A
GAME CALLED
CRICKET.

THAT LAST
ONE TOOK AN
ENTIRE SUNCYCLE
TO EXPLAIN.



I BECAME AFRAID THAT
IF I ASKED ABOUT THE
"DUCKWORTH-LEWIS METHOD"
AGAIN, SHE WOULD TELL ME.



I'D LIKE
TO HEAR MORE
ABOUT THIS
DEVICE WE'RE
SEEKING.

IT WAS ALLEGEDLY
BUILT BY ONE OF
OUR OWN UNDER YOD'S
SUPERVISION DOZENS
OF LONGCYCLES
AGO.

LEGEND HAS
IT THAT WHEREVER
IT IS THAT YOD CAME
FROM, HE--LIKE YOU--
HAD NO RETURN
PASSAGE.



OUR GREATEST
SCIENTIST COULD
NOT DETERMINE YOD'S
PLACE OF ORIGIN.
HE WASN'T EVEN
SURE YOD WASN'T
DELUSIONAL
LIKE Y--

--LIKE...
YOD MIGHT
BE.

IT'S SAID THE BEST
THE SCIENTIST COULD ACHIEVE--
USING A BIT OF YOD'S OWN MAGIC--
WAS A MACHINE THAT, WHEN BEAMED
UPON A SUBJECT, COULD RETURN IT
TO WHEREVER IT PICTURED AS
HOME IN ITS MIND.

I'M
SOMEWHAT OF
AN EXPERT
ON MYTH.

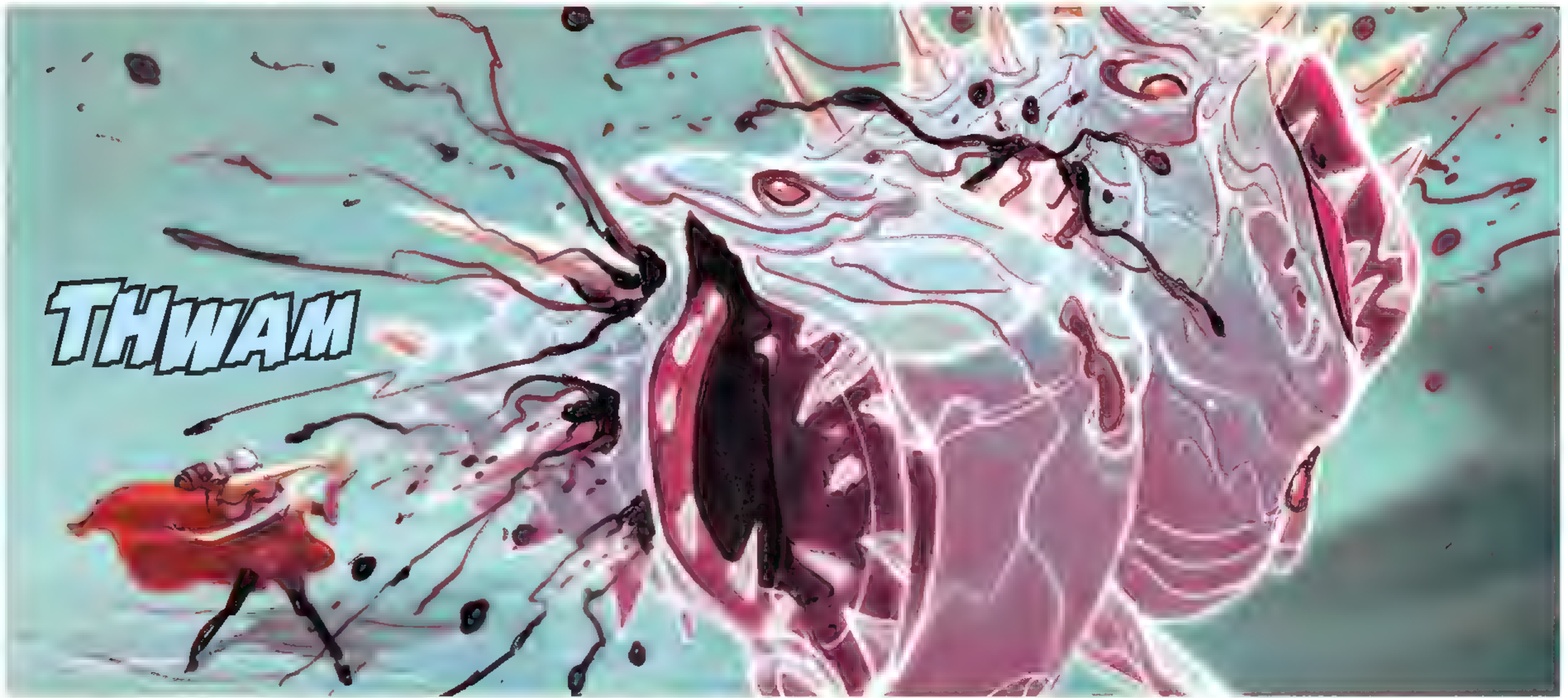
THAT
SOUNDS
SUSPICIOUSLY
LIKE MYTH,
HEC--

SKREEAAAAA!

YOU
MIGHT HAVE
MENTIONED
THESE!

I DON'T
KNOW OF
THEM!

SAVE
YOURSELF, THOR!
I'LL TRY TO HOLD
THEM BACK!

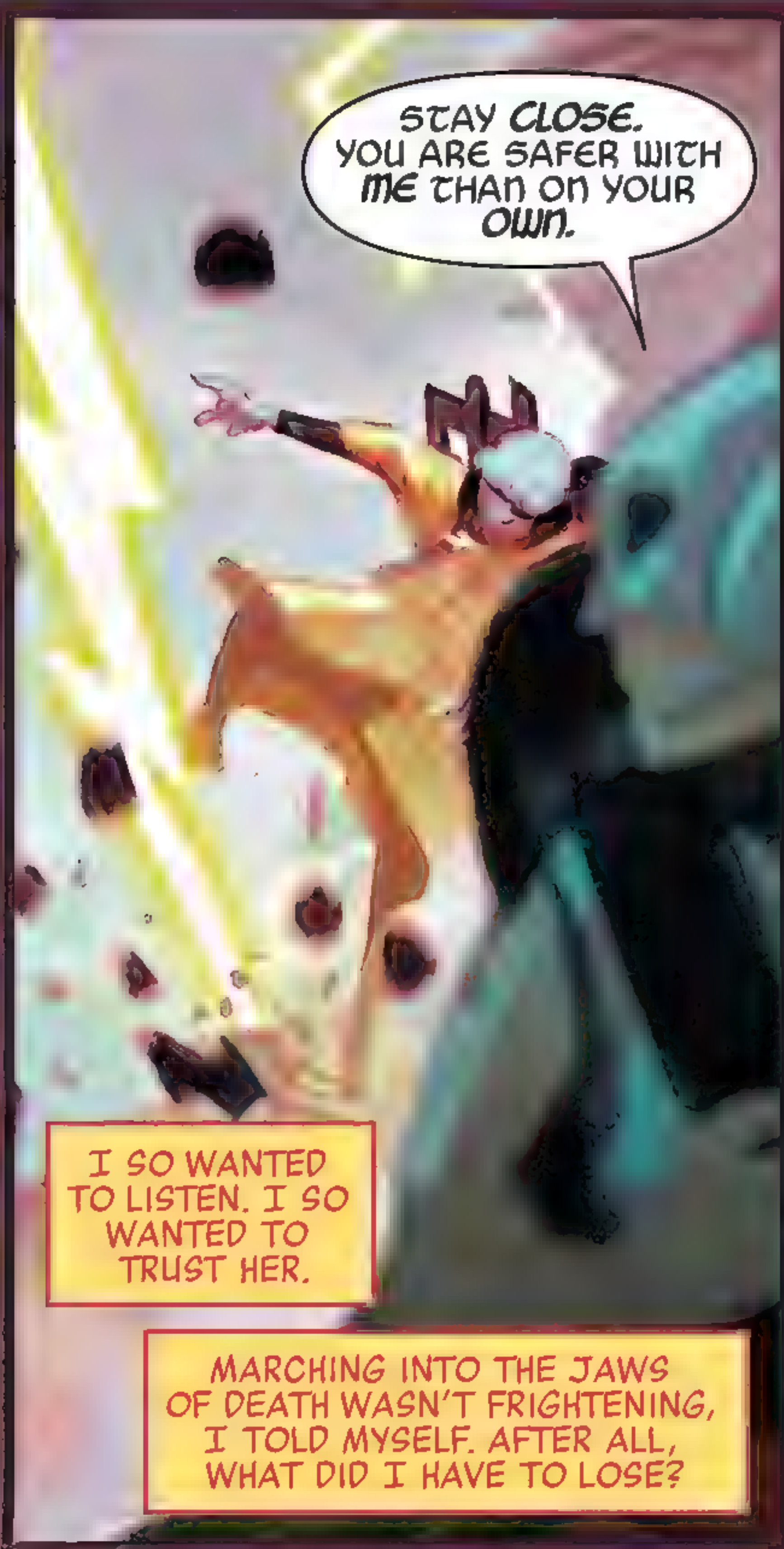




THERE.
INSIDE THE
MOUNTAIN.
THE LAIR
OF YOD.

I WILL
LEAD THE
WAY.

I
WILL NOT
ARGUE.



STAY CLOSE.
YOU ARE SAFER WITH
ME THAN ON YOUR
OWN.

I SO WANTED
TO LISTEN. I SO
WANTED TO
TRUST HER.

MARCHING INTO THE JAWS
OF DEATH WASN'T FRIGHTENING,
I TOLD MYSELF. AFTER ALL,
WHAT DID I HAVE TO LOSE?



BUT I
BROKE. INSTINCT
OVERWHELMED
THOUGHT,
AND I RAN.

HECLA!



DEATH WAS
QUICK.





BUT THOR
WAS QUICKER.



nnnnnnnnnn!

SHAKOOM





--IS WHO WOULD
BE FOOLISH ENOUGH
TO CHALLENGE THE
MIGHT OF YOD?



IN AN INSTANT, THE
AIR WAS FILLED WITH
SOUNDS THAT COULD
TOPPLE TREES.



THE BEST I COULD
HOPE TO DO WAS NOT
BE UNDERFOOT.

AND THEN, AMIDST THE
BOOMING AND CRACKLING...

...I SAW
SOMETHING.

I AM A
MASTER OF
LIGHTNING!

I AM
THE GOD OF
LIGHTNING!

PLEASE. PLEASE. LET
THIS BE WHAT I BELIEVE.
PLEASE LET IT BE...

...OPERATIONAL...

OH,
NO.

THOR! I FOUND
IT, BUT--



STAY
STRONG, HECLA!
STAY STRONG
UNTIL I CAN
BANISH
YOD!

NO...!
THOR, THERE
WOULD
SEEM...

...SEEM
TO BE ONLY
ONE CHARGE
LEFT...IN THE
DEVICE...

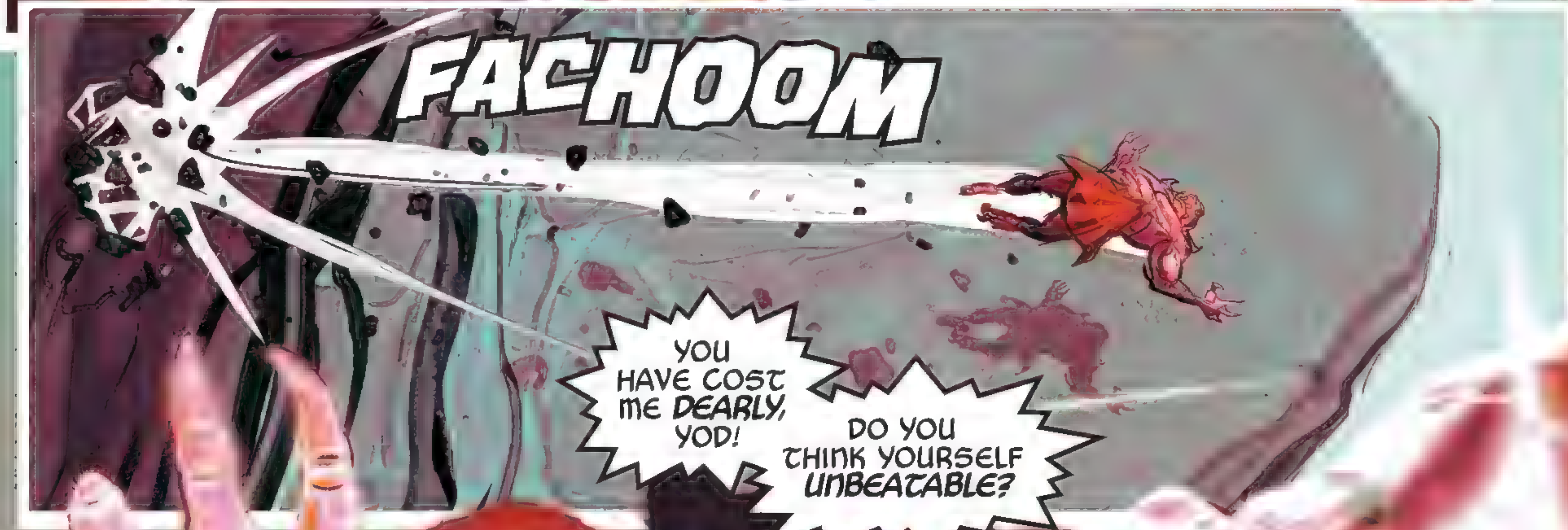
FORGET...
YOD. SAVE...
YOUR FRIENDS.
SAVE YOUR...
YOURSELF...

LET
IT...TAKE
YOU HOME...
WHERE
YOU'RE
NEEDED...



...LET IT...
TAKE YOU HOME...
WHEREVER THAT...
MAY BE...





YOU HAVE COST ME DEARLY, YOD!

DO YOU THINK YOURSELF UNBEATABLE?





NOT
AGAINST
ME!



I STRIKE NOT
FOR ASGARD--NOT
FOR EARTH--

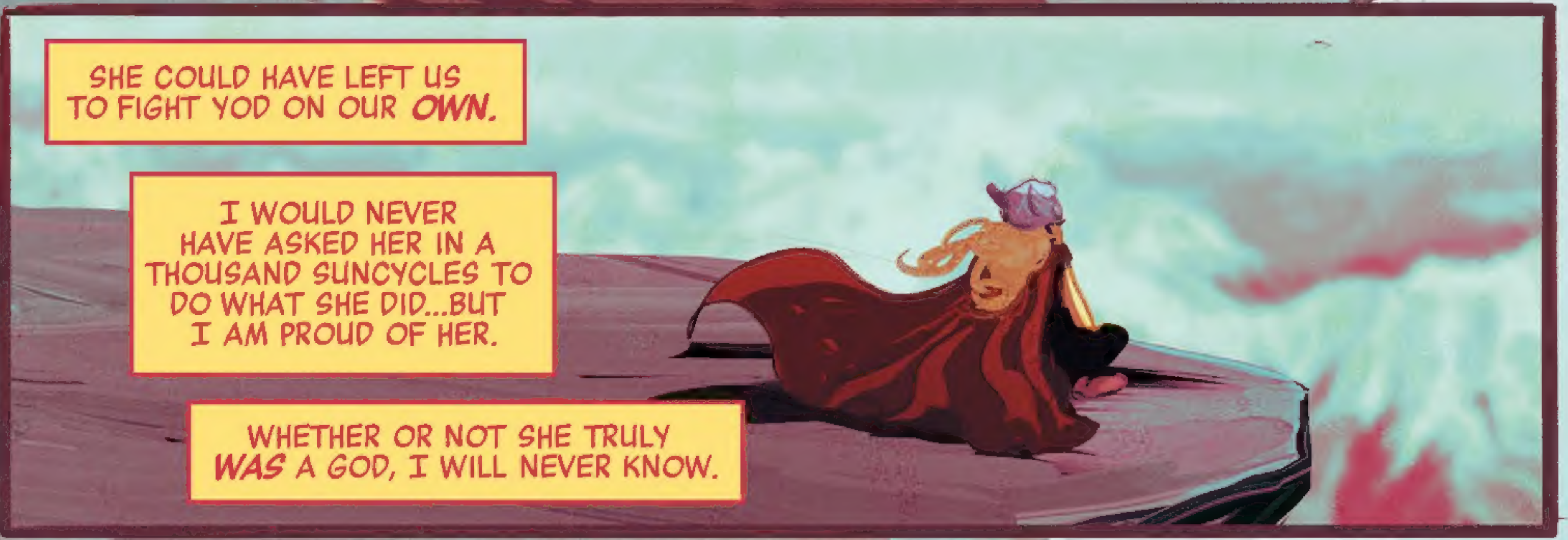


--BUT FOR MY
FRIEND!

SHAAAAAAAAA



YOD'S DEVICE COULD
HAVE SENT THOR **BACK**.
TO THE PLACE SHE
PICTURED AS HOME.



SHE COULD HAVE LEFT US
TO FIGHT YOD ON OUR **OWN**.

I WOULD NEVER
HAVE ASKED HER IN A
THOUSAND SUNCYCLES TO
DO WHAT SHE DID...BUT
I AM PROUD OF HER.

WHETHER OR NOT SHE TRULY
WAS A GOD, I WILL NEVER KNOW.



ALL I KNOW IS
THAT SHE WAS
MY FRIEND.



NEXT



Got feedback? Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "Okay to Print"!

